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Chief, COAPS

Assistant Director, ORE

Standard Operating Procedure for Preparation and Dissemination
of National Estimates

REFERENCE : Chief, COAPS draft reply to JIG Letter of 17 April, Subject as
Above

ENCLOSURE : ORE Proposed Draft

It is recommended that the enclosed ORE draft be considered
for submission as reply to the JIG letter of 17 April.

/s/
THEODORE HARRITT

Attachment: (1)

ORE/S/PP

Distribution:

Addr. O&I

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MORI/CDF Pages 1, 3&4

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DRAFT

DRAFT REPLY TO JIG LETTER OF 17 April 1950

SUBJECT: Standard Operating Procedure for Preparation and Dissemination of National Estimates

REFERENCE: Memorandum from the Joint Intelligence Committee dated 17 April 1950 addressed to the Chairman, Intelligence Advisory Committee, received 26 April 1950

1. Reference submits in detail and recommends adoption by IAC members of Standard Operating Procedure for preparation and dissemination of national estimates. It cites two reasons for such adoption:
 - a. In order that IAC members might fulfill their individual and collective responsibilities.
 - b. In order that Intelligence users might be provided with the concerted views of the responsible Intelligence heads.
2. Quite apart from the recommendation itself, the reasons advanced for its adoption appear to stem from:
 - a. An erroneous concept of IAC responsibilities, and
 - b. Either a desire to formalize a procedure that already exists or a failure to recognize that such procedure does in fact exist.
3. As to the first, i. e. erroneous concept of IAC responsibilities, the Intelligence Advisory Committee, established by NSCID I to assist and advise the Director of Central Intelligence, has no supervisory powers nor has it any "collective" responsibility. This latter point is clearly confirmed by Section 5b, "Comments," page 8 of NSC 50. Therefore, it appears anomalous to cite "collective" responsibilities of IAC members as a reason for any action.

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4. On the second point (paragraph 2b above), I assume that the aim is merely to formalize in one document what in fact is already done. How this is done is detailed in the below comments, which are tied to the indicated paragraphs of the reference.

a. Paragraph 1a of reference. In accordance with the principles of DCI Directive 3/1, it is normal practice that no drafts of national estimates are now circulated, other than to the Intelligence Agencies themselves until finally and definitely issued with the concurrence or dissents of the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

b. Paragraph 1b of reference. When an established deadline is changed, under current practice notification is sent promptly to the participating agencies, as well as duplicated by phone to the participating individuals concerned.

c. Paragraph 1c of reference. Currently, under DCI Directive 3/2, dissents from members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee are printed in the basic publication which itself bears on the first page a notation of the concurrences or dissents. It is felt that this presentation does to a logical and "practicable extent" give dissents equality of prominence.

d. Paragraph 1d of reference. The estimates and studies of the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee are being handled in the same way as other products of CIA producing units. Its single different feature is simply that it is a permanent rather than an ad hoc committee and functions under the permanent

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Scientific Intelligence Committee on which (as well as on the JAEIC) the producing agencies have permanent members.

5. In view of the erroneous assumptions upon which the recommendations of the reference appear to be based, it is felt that the originators may wish to reconsider those recommendations.

6. As requested, copies of this reply, together with your memorandum of 17 April, are being forwarded to the other members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

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